



Palm Sunday

On Sunday, five days before the Passover of the Law, the Lord came from Bethany to Jerusalem. Sending two of His disciples to bring him the foal of an ass, He sat thereon and entered into the city. When the multitude heard that Jesus was coming, they straightway took up the branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet Him. Others spread their garments on the ground, and yet others cut branches from the trees and strewed them in the way that Jesus was to pass; and all of them together, especially the children, went before and after Him, crying out; "Hosanna: Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel" (John 12:13). This is the radiant and glorious festival of our Lord's entry into Jerusalem that we celebrate today.

The branches of the palm trees symbolize Christ's victory over the devil and death. The word Hosanna means "Save, I pray," or "Save, now." The foal of an ass and Jesus' sitting thereon and the fact that this animal was untamed and considered unclean according to the Law, signified the former uncleanness and wildness of the nations, and their subjection thereafter to the holy Law of the Gospel.

Dismissal Hymn. First Tone

IN confirming the common Resurrection, O Christ God, Thou didst raise up Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion. Wherefore, we also, like the children, bearing symbols of victory, cry to Thee, the Vanquisher of death: Hosanna in the highest; blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

Another Dismissal Hymn. Fourth Tone

AS by baptism we were buried with Thee, O Christ our God, so by Thy Resurrection we were deemed worthy of immortal life; and praising Thee, we cry, Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

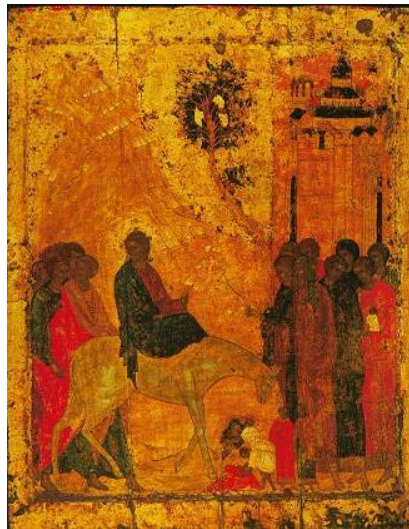
Hypakoë. Plagal of Second Tone

THOUGH formerly they praised with branches, afterwards the ungrateful Jews laid hold of Christ God with staves; but ever honoring Him with unchanging faith as our benefactor, let us continually cry to Him: Blessed art Thou Who comest to recall Adam.

Kontakion. Plagal of Second Tone

BEING borne upon a throne in Heaven, and upon a colt on the earth, O Christ God, Thou didst accept the praise of the Angels and the laudation of the children as they cried to Thee: Blessed art Thou Who comest to recall Adam.

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CHRIST'S ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

RUBLEV



† THE VIRGIN OF THE SIGN

Leonid Ouspensky (1902-1987)

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